Scotland, Highlands - Fishery etc.

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To Hir Grace, Her Majesties high Commissioner, an te Honorable Estates of Parlment:

Te Address for te Fishers on te Highland Coasts, an all uthers Inhapiting te Highlands, wha it ma concern,

Humbly Representing tat it will pe Exceedingly disadvantageous to Her nane sel, tat te Articles of te Union Concerning Salt, and Excise pe agreed to, without an Meadment in Case the Union is concluded.

HEr nane sell having got notice tat tere is a Mariage or an Onion intended petween re twa Kingdoms, and forstanding tat tere are meny Tings of great Weight to pe well considerd pefore te same is Concluded, several People wad ha ingadged Her nane sell to ha joined with tem in making an Address against an Incorporat Onion wit *England*. Now to pe plain Her nane sell does not well Forstand tese Nice Points some Folk wha are not mikle Wiser tan Her sell pretend to Judge of, and tereforе sall not midle wit any ting put sat Concerns Her nane sell, leaving tese kittle Points to pe Judged pe te Grit Lords and Duniwasles in Parliament, wha are able te give a petter Judgement of em tan Her nane sel, an has mucle mare te lose tan She has if any lels to te Nation, sall tereby hapen, and wha she thinks will be as careful, for tere nane Concerns as other Folks are of teirs; on tese Considerations she sall Confin Her nane Speak to te Salt, an te Excise, whilk she sar sees will touch Her nane sell Mickle, an na litle, in Case te Onion ga on.

Put peforo she pegin, she wad ha Your Grace, an te griet Lords of *Parlment* te Conſider, tat Her wane ſell was never pehind her Neighbours te Lalanders, in Loyalty te her nane Lord, to te King an to te Parlment, an terefore wad na-pe farſtood, as if ſhe meant any ting againſt an Onion, put wit all ſhe wad ſee it pe a Good Onion, far tat ſhe likes wit all her Hart.

Put now to pegin she is informed tet ſeven Years afear te Onion, te ſame Cuſtom upon Salt is to pe Payed here as in *England*, which is Four and Twenty Mark upon te Pow, which aogether wit te price of te Salt its ſell, will pe Thirty Shilling a Peck, if not two Marks and a half, conſidering tat ter Few will Venture to pring it hame pecauſe of te griet Cuſtom, for if tey ſhould pring any quantity to ly upon ter hand ower yeer, it wad faſh tem te get te Cuſtom paid, ſo I tink te peſt of of Salt will pe cheap in toſe dayes if it is not twa Marke and a half.

Now it is like Your Grit Duniwiſhes may tink tis ſtrang, pecauſe tey will gar 20 or 30 Mark more a Year ſerve ter Families of Salt tan formerly, put tho her nane ſell can Eat her Meat wit as little Salt as her Neighbours, yet ſhe cannot make her hering, py which ſhe wins her Breed, witout Salt, and tat a good qeantity too, which in ſuch an event will be Salt upon Salt, and I tink Salt upon te top of tat Salt again.

Tat which will Certainly happen upon te Raiſing ter price of Salt ſo very much, will pe, tat where formerly many Folke who had put a Hunder Mark, twa or tree, to Watt upon Herring, will not pe able to make much apove on half of tem, pecauſe te Salt will pe Deares, or not mackle hefore tan ahle to other

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other Charges; for in the preſent Caſe a Man tat has a hunder Mark to ware, many in a Year when a Good Take happens, make 30 Parrats of Herring wit Scots Salt, for he will get te Parrals for 18 or 20 Shilling a piece, Salt to each Partel for 14 ſhilling; Guting, Cowperage and Conveniency, where te make em for 4 ſhilling a pece, and the Hartings for 8 at 10 ſhilling a Parral, ſo tat tey will not pe muckle mare as 40 ſhilling a Parral put ſupoſe he give 20 or 30 ſhiling a parral for te Herrings, he will ſtill have 20 parrals for 100 Mark: put when the Salt is ſo dear he will not make 12 parrals under 30 pound or 50 Marks, for Salt only, and all te other Expece as dear as formerly. Which in an ordinary way of reckoning he will not have apove half te Herring he can now get for his hunder Marks, and then if he lay on the Charge of his Attendence, and the Profit of his Money upon the 12 parrals for which he can now he 24 parrals, te Harrings, will pe very deer, Eſpecialy when they are Cowped throw 3 or 4 Hands as they moſt pe from the place where they are made, to the place of Retail, and every one lay on the profit of their Money, as it is Reſonable they ſhould; from all which Salt Herring will not pe poor Folks Food, the only uſe tey will then pe for Greening Wives, and for Dauntiſe to People that have Money to ſpare, in ſuch a Caſe we may purn our Nets and Pirlins and go to te Plantations, or take on to be Soildiers and leave our Wives and Bairns to Beg.

Your Traw-bakes will do us no Good, for what ever encouragament may reſeby ariſe to teſe who carry tem aproad, it will be noting to hame Sale, and it is the hame Sale tat keeps up te price, for Folk are not obliged to ſell to Marchants for Export Except they get a price, when tey know how to

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diſpoſe of tem at hame, put in tat Caſe tere would be a Neceſſity to ſell aproad, and I know not who will Ventar to buy Salt ſo dear and ly at the Diſcration of Merchants who will ever make teir own price, if they ſee the Herring plenty; and peſides, as Her nane ſel ſaid before, *Merchants* will be feard to puy mickle *Salt*, pecauiſe of te great Cuſtom, and in Caſe of a Good Take, it may happen Salt is not to pe had for Money; ſo look what way ſhe will, ſhe can Tink of noting put of purning her Nets and Birlin, if te Onion go on, and tis Article pe not Mended.

Put farther te Traw-back is not Sufficent to pay the Extordinary price of Salt by muckle and no little 70 pounds woth of Salt will put make a laſt of *Herring*, an tho teſe pe Puſh Herring, tere is put 18 pound allowed of Trawpack; ſo the Laſt of owr Herring will ſtill be more tan 3 Marke a Parral dearer tan te Dutch, an a Marke ſaved at firſt Coaſt will enable te Merchant to ſell twa Merks Chaper in te Marcat aproad, peſides te Tutch have te Voug in te Mercat already, an have teir Merchants pefore hand engadged oterways than owrs are like to get in haſt.

Her nane ſell ſarſtands tat ſome *Pody* will ſay, put we may make our Herring for home uſe wit Scots Salt, put allowing it to pe ſo, Scots Salt is likewiſe to pe raiſed py Taxations, which will make it half as dear as foreign Salt, ſo tat ſtill her nane ſels Trad will pe diſcouraged, ſo at ſhe cannot make her lively hood of it.

Yea, even our Freſh Herring will pe ſpoild py te darth of Salt, ſar her nane ſel wil pe ſure, te give em nane, if poſſibly ſhe can get em off her hand without it. Te Cowpers an Cadgers will pe ſure te leave em without it, as lang as tey

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can, want it, ſo in all probapility te Folk te whom tey are carried will get tem in a ſtinking condition.

Put it is na only Fiſhers tat are ſa mickle diſcouraged pe te deer *Salt*, put it lys ſad on te *Peeff* tro. An ſar tat Reaſon our Cows will na ſell in te Lawlands as pefore, pecauſe te Country Folk tat were in uſe to buy em, about te Ladner time, will pe diſcouraged te buy em ſar te deer Salt, ſo tat not only wil tey buy nane of her nane ſels Cows, put tey wil ſel ſome of tere nane to *England*, ſo tat when her nane Cows go in to *England* te Mercats will pe ſtalled an te *Engliſh* when ſhe ſees bad Weather and a ful Marcaket, will een make te price her ſel, ſo tat all te advantage of having no Cuſtom to pay will not pe wit a *Puttan* albite it were tree times as muckle as it is.

Yea her nane ſel hears tat te *Engliſh* have peen very preſſing in te Article about Salt, an wonnot ha our Scots *Skips* pe Victuled with *Peff* or Fiſh Salted wit her nane *Salt*.

Tis ſhe cannot ſarſtand, nor can ſhe ſee what te *Engliſh* wad pe at py it, unleſs ir pe to hinder ScotsSkips to Trade, for py tis means te *Engliſh* Skips can pe Victuled much Chaper tan te Scots.

Now I tink if te matter pe as it is repreſented, tar all te carneſtneſs for an Union upon te *Engliſh* ſide, proceeds from te Love an Affection tat teſe who has now te Ruling of te Roſt bear to us, then I am very ſure when tismattar is lade before tem, an te reaſons given why we cannot conſent to tis Article apout Salt, tey will paſs from teirs ſeeking it, her nane Sels. Reaſon for it is tis.

If te *Engliſh* intend no mare py all tis Cuſtom upon *Salt*

put to make a neceſſary Levy of Money for teir preſſing Occaſions, an tat tey look upon tis Branch of te Revenue to be tat which may Raiſe moſt Money to te Crown, moſt inſenſibly to te people as I think all Governments ought to do, an tat te *Engliſh* deſign no oter ting in it among tem ſels; ten her name ſel is ſure, in ſo far as it anſwereth not te ſcope or purpoſe in any part of te united Kingdom, it ought not to take place.

But te proper way of Levying Taxes in all Countrys where tey conſider teir own *Intereſt*, an te ſtaning of teState, tey lay on moſt Cuſtoms upon ſuch Goods as are Waſted an Conſumed by People who ha Money to ſpare, or uſed by oters out of Vanity or ſome oter bad vice, which ought to be diſcouraged, ſuch as *Bra* Claes, danty Meats and Drinks &c. Now wat ever is laid upon teſe comes out of Pockets where it is to ſpare, or from *Fools* tat ought to be puniſhed, bur to put havy Taxations on poor Mens Labors tat know not how to win a Mealath of Meat to temſelves, is unaccountable.

But again if in *England* tis Cuſtom is laid upon Salt only to Raiſe te *Money* Inſenſibly, an what is but litle to every Man, tho it doth Reach all Men, and tat very equaly, none makeing uſe of Salt to Exceſs, as many do Meat, *Drink*, and bra Claes, yet in *Scotland* it ſhall Reach te *People* very unequaly, an moſt heavyly on teſe who can worſt bear it, becauſe te poverty of te poor allows him not to go to Mercat frequently for freſh Meat, he moſt make uſe of Salt, which he buys at ſuch ſeaſons when he find it cheapeſt, and it requires more ten five times as much Salt to preſerve te Meat as what is Sufficient to ſeaſon it for te Eating, and where is te *Equity* to make a poor Man who cannot buy Food for his Family in te proper Seaſon, but muſt

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take it wen he may have it cheapeſt, to pay 5 or 6 times as much for Salt to preſerve it, as annether Rich Man makes uſe of who is in a Condition to buy dayly.

Another ting which makes it neceſſary for us to Salt Meat in *Scotland*, not only Fiſh which muſt be ſalted at ye Place where tey are Catched, put alſo our Fleſh, not only pecauſe many in the Country are *far form Mercat Towns and Scant of Silder, put mo particularly pecauſe the Country hit few or no Incloſures to keep Catt in a good Condition, ſo at moſt part of the Year none of tem are fit for Slaughter, put ſuch as are Houſe fed or keept in ſome Good Park or Incloſure which are not very rife.*

All teſe tings and many mae Her might name, are reaſons why Salt in *Scotland*, ought not to pe Charged at the ſame Rate as in *England*, and tis ſall be a Touch ſtane to try whither the *Engliſh* ſeek an Onion wit *Scotland*, be of kindneſs or for ſelf ends, for if tey deſign noting put equal dealing, tey cannot refuſe to alter tis Arricle upon Salt.

Put again, tat Exciſe is no leſs, yea a greater burden to many, for it will mak Uſquebae dear, which her nane ſell cannot well went, and Ale to Drunkards (which is no much matter) put it will make much leſs conſumpt upon Corn, and tis ſhall touch your Laland Lairds wit a Witneſs, and in its turn come pack to us in the Highlands wit a Vengance, for tey finding there will not pe uſe for ſo much Corn, muſt leave much of their Land Lie, and py tis means tey will pring up Cows to carry into *England*, and For-ſta the Mercat upon her nane ſell, tho the Laland Lairds will make but a ſorry hand of it, tey will pe in doubt whither to leave their Ground Graſs or make Corn of it, and tis dear Exciſe and Salt, will dry us up altogether, for Salt peing naturaly hot, and the dear Ale and little Money will not afford a Cooler.

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